

ABC THIS WEEK WITH DAVID BRINKLEY
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SAM DONALDSON

GEORGE WILL

Sen. JOSEPH BIDEN, D., Delaware

DONALDSON: Well, administration officials say the same thing as Mr. Rumsfeld told us earlier in this broadcast. That is, that it's state-sponsored terrorism with which we're dealing, Libya and Syria and Iraq and Iran and other states. If that is the case, why should we not retaliate in the strongest way, when our people are killed, against those states? BIDEN: You know, I sit on the Intelligence Committee, I sit on the Foreign Relations Committee and I hear these statements about state-sponsored terrorism. And then we sit there and we ask them, who, how, where and when and what are you going to do about it? And we're told, 'We're not certain.' As recently as Friday, I asked for a briefing from the CIA, a private briefing. They sat with me and said that they were not at all certain who was responsible.

WILL: Are the standards of proof too high? I mean, we've got a sort of Warren Court fastidiousness here. BIDEN: No, I think we have two things. I think number one, we need, we have a shortcoming in terms of intelligence capability and that, in fact, is something that can't be remedied in the short term, because the only way you're going to find out about these organizations is to infiltrate them and they take a long time to do. That is not done overnight. You don't change the telemetry of a satellite to impact on that. But the second thing is that I quite frankly think that this administration's figured out that it's very complicated world out there and, in fact, that if you find out what particular individual or small group may be responsible, and to my knowledge they hadn't even done that...

BRINKLEY: This is a case where it's known precisely. In London, somebody in the Libyan Embassy opened fire on a crowd in the street, killed an English policewoman. The British essentially did nothing, sent them home on a private plane, taking all their junk with them. Secretary Shultz since then has said countries may not punish outlaw countries for fear of losing commercial opportunities.

BIDEN: I think that's ridiculous. I think that's ridiculous. And I think that there are ways...

BRINKLEY: What is ridiculous? BIDEN: That notion that for fear of losing commercial opportunities, you are not going to punish. The fact of the matter is, I don't see, there's nothing at all wrong with us making life extremely miserable for Khadafy personally and for Libya generally,

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